

SAMPLE SLAB UPDATE

28 - OCTOBER 2018

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SAMPLE SLAB COLLECTORS.



Market Notes



After a two-year hiatus, [Mike Kittle](#) held another of his hefty Sunday night eBay sample sales. This complemented the entire case of samples he offered at his table at the September Long Beach Expo. The sale featured several new YN Treasure Hunt slabs from the show (see photo at left) and a total of 34 pieces.

Also at Long Beach, it was a privilege to visit with top sample collector Rob Leach, who was in California visiting family. Numismatics is a brotherhood and I have had the opportunity to meet several Sample Slab Update readers in person over the last few years. If you are at a Long Beach Expo or World's Fair of Money, look me up.

Notable eBay sales included two Compugrade 1967 Kennedys (Compugrade-050-1-1). One auctioned for \$229.50, close to the \$200 catalog value, while a sharp collector picked up the other as a late-night Buy It Now for \$12. An otherwise common NGC-050-4-10, worth about \$20 with the usual 1964 Kennedy, sold for \$149.95 with a 1966 coin. The same type with a 1967 coin earned \$102.50 in 2013, meaning this large premium has a precedent.

I acquired the first PCGS eCollector holder (see page 518 of [Sample Slabs](#), second edition) that I have seen in person. Every two weeks from 2008 through 2012, PCGS issued one of these holders to a reader of their email newsletter. Holding a variety of coins, each is unique. This one, #21 in the series of 100, holds a 2009-Mo one-ounce silver Libertad. The other notable pickup was an unlisted PMG sample holding a Disney Dollar. A dealer who knows my interest in samples set it aside. Let dealers know you collect samples and you may get similar opportunities.



New Sample Slab Issuer – Canadian Coin Certification Service (CCCS)



CCCS is a major certifier of Canadian coins and currency, although their holders seldom appear outside of Canada. They offer conventional hard plastic holders, like the one seen here, as well as sealed soft flips. This sample, unlisted in the Sample Slabs book, the Conder101 reference, or sampleslabs.com, auctioned on eBay for \$70 on 8/18/18, slightly too late to make the August newsletter. With not only new types, but completely new issuers appearing regularly, our collecting niche remains a rich field for discoveries.

CoinWeek Midnight Stream

Thank you to CoinWeek editor Charles Morgan for the kind words about me and sample slabs during CoinWeek Midnight Stream #4 that aired live on YouTube Friday, October 5. Scheduled for every two weeks at midnight Eastern, (Charles' schedule permitting), the Midnight Stream is an hour or more of market analysis and hobby commentary, followed by Charles answering viewer questions. I encourage you to tune in whether you are up late in the East or at the convenient time of 9 pm in the West. The next one is tomorrow, Friday, October 19. If you miss the opportunity to have your questions answered at the live show, view the recordings on YouTube. For example, [find Stream #4 here](#), with my brief part starting at 1:00:15.

Update on United States Numismatic Arts Foundation (USNAF)



More people asked me about USNAF samples than about any other new discovery since the PCGS Registry sample surfaced in 2016. In [the prior issue](#), I listed the known facts about these pieces without giving opinions or drawing conclusions. To recap briefly, at least one web forum member accused the seller of fabricating these samples. Neither the accusations nor the defense was convincing or supported. Since that time, I corresponded with two prominent sample collectors who decided to add USNAF sample and production slabs to their collections. Also, although I do not own a USNAF holder, I had the opportunity to examine one in hand (see photos above).

I believe the USNAF holders are genuine and were made in the 1980s. The anonymous accusation and vague seller argue against authenticity. The balance tips in favor of authenticity, however, considering the several appearances of USNAF production holders before the controversy began. Seen in person, also, the holder and label appear 30 years old and not new.

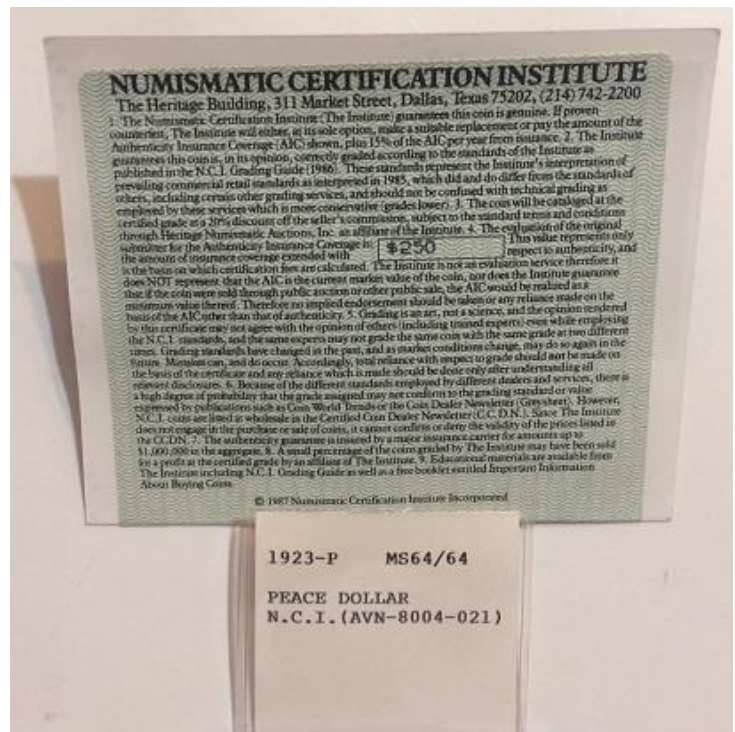
If you have more information of any type on USNAF, whether it supports or contradicts my conclusion, I want to hear from you.

Not Quite Samples – Numismatic Certification Institute (NCI) Certificate



Although NCI slabs appear at long intervals, I have not previously encountered an NCI certificate. This company, a division of Heritage Auctions, issued certificates beginning in 1984 and slabs beginning in 1989. The coin is in a 2 1/2" by 2 1/2" soft flip that is heat sealed to prevent removal. A cardboard tag with a description, grade, and serial number is in the other side of the flip (see next page), although this tag can slide out of the flip. The certificate, made of photo paper, has black and white images of the coin. A sticker with wavy blue background folds over the certificate, displaying information on the coin and the terms of the certification. The flip folds over the sticker and the photo / sticker / flip assembly is stapled together. Although not visible in the photos, an embossed NCI seal covers the upper center corners of the two photos. The entire presentation was designed to resemble an ANACS certificate.

I found this specimen in a dealer case at the September Long Beach Expo, where I showed it to PCGS CoinFacts founder Ron Guth. He remarked that, although we used to criticize off-brand certifiers, the coin appeared to earn its MS 64 grade.



Notes from Sample Slab Update Readers

Kellen Hoard writes,



I realized I never sent you this one when I purchased it. Notice it was made for Summer Seminar.

I own the one I sent you the picture of. The other is held by YN (name removed). They were donated as lots for the YN Benefit auction. I confirmed with the consignor that these are the only two in existence. I got into quite a bidding war over it.

(If anyone is working on a complete set of PCGS 30th Anniversary medals, put this one in the "uncollectible" category with two pieces known. -David)

Robert DeNaro writes,

Just got this new sample from PMG today in the mail for my 1989 set. I bought it on eBay earlier this week.

It was not listed as a sample but noticed it was a sample when I saw the picture of the note had a sample marking on the label.

I also was able to run the holder's cert number through the PMG cert verification on their website, and it came back to the sample slab I have.



(Robert is a prolific discoverer of new samples, such as this one that goes into his 1989 birth year set. The cert verifiers have many secrets not yet explored. He also advised of an August 2018 PCGS Luncheon holder with a 1948-D Franklin half. This is the first one known with a date before 1961. -David)

Book News

The Sample Slabs, second edition printed book is now sold out. I do not plan to print more. Fortunately, an unlimited supply of PDFs remain and many people prefer the PDF for easy searching. Buy the PDF download for \$12 at SampleSlabBook.com or on eBay.

If you have a printed book, it might be worth a few bucks. After the first edition sold out, used copies went up to \$45 - \$50, or about double the \$24 issue price.

Buying and Selling

Buying

I always buy sample collections or better single slabs for inventory. For my own collection, I look for samples from obscure or unlisted grading services, gold coin samples, and rarities from all services. davidschwager@hotmail.com

I will pay \$150 for a copy of Conder101's 2003 slab book, Third Party Grading / Certification Services & Slab / Certificate Varieties.

Selling

This newsletter features eight fresh lots – no repeats from the fixed price lists or eBay sales. Free shipping on all orders. To order, email me at davidschwager@hotmail.com, or call or text (714) 658-9516 to verify the holders remain available. I can then send a PayPal invoice, or you can receive a 10% discount for any other payment method (check, Facebook Messenger, or nearly any option you have in mind).

1. ANACS-Unlisted. 2017-D Shield cent. USA flag label with “MSNS / 2017 Convention / Warren, MI / November 24-26, 2017.” No eBay appearances of this type. \$20
2. ICG-001-1-7. 2000-D Memorial cent. The familiar Intercept Shield type. \$5
3. NGC-Unlisted. 2009-D Polk Presidential dollar. Label: “SAMPLE / YN TREASURE TRIVIA” This type debuted at the 2018 ANA. \$8
4. PCGS-001-5-11. 2015-D Shield cent. The slab is in the “Collecting PCGS Samples” folder given at the massive sample slab display at the January 2016 FUN and February 2016 Long Beach shows. \$18
5. PCGS-005-3-1. 1908 Liberty nickel. A scarce and desirable green label sample slab. \$175
6. PCGS-Unlisted. 1986-2016 PCGS 30th Anniversary medal. From the August 12, 2016 set registry luncheon. One of the better luncheon slabs. \$125.

Additional items of interest to slab collectors.

7. PCGS [Type 2.1](#) holder. 1957 Franklin half PR65. Intact, clean ring on this scarce transitional holder. \$49

8. PCGS rattler box. Typical condition. I haven't seen the inner sticker with the "Box No" and "Day No" before. \$75, including shipping in a Priority medium flat rate box.



Sample Slab Update #28 – October 2018 (sent 10/18/18). Published about every two months by David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. If you would like to place a brief buy or sell ad in the next Sample Slab Update at no charge, please send an email. See SampleSlabBook.com for past issues.